

July 4, 1979

Dear Harold,

This is about the Army documents ~~x~~ you sent with your letter of 6/10. I'll keep this confidential, as you requested, but I hope you'll release this stuff soon, so that various people can think about how to follow ~~x~~ it up.

What is most interesting to me is that ~~these~~ these are documents which the Army later destroyed. As I understand it, these copies were initially withheld by the FBI, for referral to the Army, and were sent to you just recently. Therefore, the ~~context~~ context is not clear. When did the FBI get them? Specifically, what else is in 89-43-2381?? *ref to Army*

~~The~~ The pages you ~~sent~~ sent are labeled 2381A through 2381C. I would ~~guess~~ have guessed from the high numbers that they were not given to the FBI in 1963. When did the FBI get them, when and how? The FBI stamp is early December (3 or 8), 1963. So, why the '2381' number - did they have that many serials by then?

If you can't have your files checked on this, I hope you can let me pass this on to Bob Ranftel, so he can check the FBI's copies.

The pre-assassination (allegedly) phone call to the Silver Dollar war room is new to me. (And how did the Dallas Police know about it by Nov. 26?) If it wasn't ~~Army~~ the Army involved, I would just write it off as a bizarre coincidence. But maybe it isn't.

In 2381B, what is new is that ~~the~~ one of the men allegedly spotted sighting in a rifle on 11/20 fit Oswald's description, and that he had a car fitting the description of the car Oswald was driving!!!! That makes the whole silly story a ~~bit~~ bit more serious. (The implication is that there was a conspirator with Oswald.) As the story about the men sighting the ~~rifle~~ rifle came out in the earlier FBI release, there was no ~~attempt~~ attempt to link it with Oswald, and it seemed unimportant. ~~XX~~ (I agree with you that the AIB shouldn't have made a fuss over it.)

2381C generally overlaps with ~~the~~ the information from Stringfellow in the 11/22 message to the U.S. Strike Command which you asked about. (Copy enclosed; see graf 9. This is item 1F in the Miscellaneous Records released at the Archives in 1973.) The big difference is that, at 5:15 on the 22nd, Stringfellow told the Army that Oswald had confessed to both murders! (On top of all the other false information.)

I don't think the paragraph in this memo about how Mamantov got to be the translator adds any new details, but it does ~~confirm~~ confirm the story, and it's interesting to have the contemporaneous record.

The activity reflected in these pages strikes me as extremely sinister, and if there is any way of finding related FBI documents in their Dallas file, it's worth the effort.

Extra ~~copy~~ copy enclosed for your comments.

Sincerely,

Paul

PLH

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MESSAGE

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
STAFF COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

NR: 462567

(9) ~~(FOUO)~~ ASSISTANT CHIEF DON STRINGFELLOW, INTELLIGENCE SECTION, DALLAS POLICE DEPT, NOTIFIED 112TH INTC GP, THIS HQ, THAT INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM OSWALD REVEALED HE HAD DEFECTED TO CUBA IN 1959 AND IS CARD CARRYING MEMBER OF COMMUNIST PARTY. EVALUATION B-3.

(10) ~~(FOUO)~~ DCSI COMMENT (FBI, DALLAS, TEXAS, AND SAN ANTONIO LIGHT NEWSPAPER STATED OSWALD TRAVELED TO MOSCOW, USSR, IN 1959. POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT OSWALD MAY HAVE TRAVELED TO USSR VIA CUBA, IN VIEW OF ABOVE INFORMATION UNCOVERED BY DALLAS POLICE.

NOTE: THIS MESSAGE RECEIVED WITHOUT RECLASSIFICATION CODE.

ACTION: ACSI

DISTR: DCSOP, ACSFOR, OSD, JCS, AF, NAVY, CMC, DIA, DIA (SA), CONARC LN

DA IN 154272

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